

Helps secure funding for Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission

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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires voted today to ensure the nation has clean water, clean air, and to preserve our nation's natural resources. This year, more than ever, H.R. 2643, the Interior-Environment Appropriations bill is indispensable due to evidenced climate changes and to supply the EPA with necessary funding to protect our nation's families.

"We are living at a time when the environment has become an urgent priority," said Sires. "We must make sure current working systems remain in place while scientists and experts find the most efficient way to predict possible environmental challenges in the future. The investment is not only worthwhile, it is necessary."

The 2008 Interior-Environment Act, increases funding for climate change research at the EPA and the Interior Department. It establishes a two-year commission on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, to deal with how the U.S. adapts to the reality of climate change. On a local level, it restores funding to improve the quality of drinking water, provides \$1.27 billion for the Superfund hazardous waste clean-up program and \$7 million dollars to protect the welfare of low-income and minority communities from environmental toxins related to industrial pollution.

In the 13th Congressional District, H.R. 2643 benefits the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, which operates one of the largest treatment plants for wastewater in northern New Jersey. This bill provides \$500,000 to remove pollutants discharged to the Passaic River and Newark Bay, reduces discharge of toxic compounds that affect fish consumption, and reduces the amount of debris washing up on our state beaches.

"I am pleased that this bill also provides more funding than in years past for the National Endowments for the Arts," said Congressman Sires. "Artistic endeavors enhance the psychological well-being of our citizens, as well as fostering economic growth in our communities. Additional funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities will assist the agency in continuing to be a catalyst for artistic and intellectual talent."

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